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(54) Title: NOVEL SUBSTITUTED-POLYARYL CHROMOPHORIC COMPOUNDS

(57) Abstract: The invention provides for novel substituted-polyaryl chromophoric compounds which desirably comprise a single diazo group, and optimally include a plurality of diazo groups. Preferably the chromophores exhibit optical nonlinear second-order properties and have unique absorption maximum and other chromophoric properties that make them useful for, among other things, multifunctional optical switches or waveguides.

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NOVEL SUBSTITUTED-POLYARYL CHROMOPHORIC COMPOUNDS

TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention pertains to new chromophores. The novel chromophoric compounds are substituted-aryl compounds comprising a diazo linkage. Optimally the chromophores include a plurality of linkages which contribute to their unique absorption maximum and chromophoric properties, including optical nonlinear second-order properties. The novel optical nonlinear second-order compounds of the present invention are optionally employed in devices such as multifunctional optical
10 switches or waveguides.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

15 Chromophores are molecules that selectively transmit and absorb color by virtue of their possession of certain chemical groups (e.g., nitrite ($-\text{NO}_2$), diazo ($-\text{N}=\text{N}-$), triphenylmethane, quinoneimine, xanthene, anthraquinone, or the like). The color of a chromophore is created by an electronic transition between the highest occupied molecular orbital (HOMO) and the lowest unoccupied molecular orbital (LUMO) present in the chromophore following absorption of incoming light. Due to their possession of color, chromophores can be employed in a wide variety of diverse applications. For
20 instance, chromophores can be employed as "labels" or a means of detection, for example, in diagnostic applications, forensics applications, laboratory studies, and the like. More recently, chromophores have been employed in the telecommunications industry, for example, to convert light into electrical current (Shi et al., *Science*, 288, 119-122 (April 2000)), as components of a multifunctional optical switch or waveguide (e.g.,
25 U.S. Serial Number 09/357,201 and PCT/US00/19921), and for other uses.

 These more recent applications, e.g., as an optical waveguide or switch, use a chromophore to change or add optical properties by modifying the backbone of a polymer. However, addition of a chromophore to molecules other than polymers is well
30 known and has been described in the art. Modification of a polymer backbone, and particularly a polyimide backbone with different chromophores also is known in the art,

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and is described, for instance, in Marder et al., *Nature*, 388, 845-851 (1997); Saaedeh et al., "Polyimides with a Diazo Chromophore Exhibiting High Thermal Stability and Large Electrooptic Coefficients", *Macromolecules*, 30 (18), 5403-5407 (1997); Yu et al., "Novel Second-Order Nonlinear Optical, Aromatic and Aliphatic Polyimides Exhibiting High-Temperature Stability", *Applied Physics Letters*, 66, 1050-1052 (1995); Yu et al., "Novel Second-Order Nonlinear Optical Polyimides," *Society of Photooptical Instrumentation Engineers*, 2527, 127-136; U.S. Serial No. 09/357,201; and PCT/US00/19921). These modifications expand the responsiveness of the polyimide to different wavelengths of light. Chromophoric compounds suitable for use as an optical waveguide or switch optimally have a low dielectric constant and include for instance, those described in U.S. Patent No. 5,318,729; U.S. Serial No. 09/357,201; PCT/US00/19921, and by Moylan et al. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 115, 12599-12600 (1993); *Polymers for Second-Order Nonlinear Optics*, ACS Symposium Series 601, 66, (1995); and Miller et al. *Chem. Mater.*, 6, 1023-1032 (1994). Despite the existence of these few compounds, a considerably larger inventory of photonic materials, preferably which exhibit second-order nonlinear optical (2^o-NLO) properties, and optimally which have a low dielectric constant, are needed to meet the increasingly sophisticated demands of the telecommunications industry. The provision of further chromophores, especially 2^o-NLO chromophores, would increase the availability of novel, useful photonic materials. Optionally such further chromophores also can be employed for other applications, e.g., as labels in applications outside the telecommunications industry.

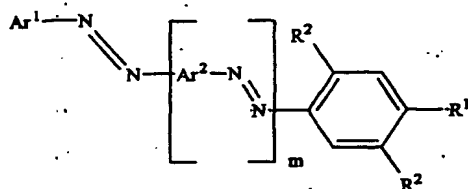
The present invention accordingly provides novel chromophores. Preferably these chromophores exhibit 2^o-NLO properties. Optimally such chromophores can be employed in optical switches (particularly as described in U.S. Serial No. 09/357,201, and PCT/US00/19921, incorporated by reference) that can perform several critical tasks for the telecommunications industry - e.g., wavelength division multiplexing, wavelength division demultiplexing, performance as an add/drop filter and/or interconnect device. These and other objects and advantages of the present invention, as well as additional inventive features, will be apparent from the following description of the invention provided herein.

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BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

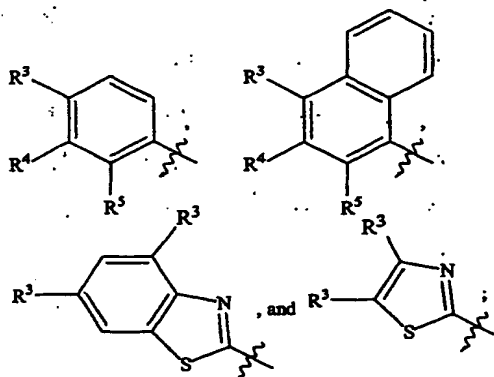
The present invention provides novel substituted polyaryl chromophoric compounds which desirably comprise a single diazo group, and optionally include a plurality of diazo groups.

One aspect of the present invention pertains to novel substituted-polyaryl diazo-compounds of the following formula (I):



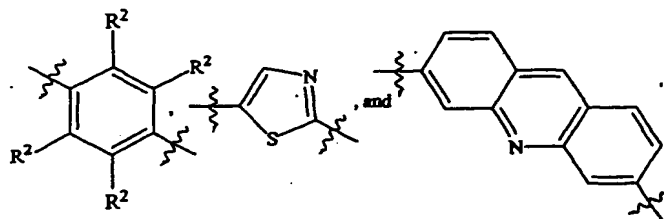
(I)

wherein Ar¹ is selected from the group consisting of:



Ar² is selected from the group consisting of:

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and if $m=0$; R^1 is an electron donating group selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, C_{2-12} alkoxy (optionally substituted with hydroxyl or amino), C_{7-12} dialkylamino (optionally substituted with hydroxyl or amino), and C_{1-12} alkylaryl amino, (optionally substituted with hydroxyl or amino); R^2 is hydrogen, C_{1-12} alkyl, carboxy, hydroxy, C_{1-12} alkoxy, or halo; and at least one of the groups R^3 , R^4 and R^5 is an electron withdrawing group selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, cyano, COR^2 , C_{1-12} mono- or polyhaloalkyl, C_{1-12} alkenyl (substituted with an additional electron withdrawing group), halo, nitro, sulfonyl, C_{1-12} alkylsulfonyl (optionally substituted), and arylsulfonyl (optionally substituted); while the other of the groups R^3 , R^4 and R^5 are, independently, C_{1-12} alkyl, hydroxy, C_{1-12} alkoxy, amino, C_{1-12} alkylaryl amino (optionally substituted with hydroxyl or amino), diarylamino, (optionally substituted with hydroxyl or amino), hydrogen, cyano, COR^2 , C_{1-12} mono- or polyhaloalkyl, C_{1-12} alkenyl (substituted with an additional electron withdrawing group), halo, nitro, sulfonyl, C_{1-12} alkylsulfonyl (optionally substituted), or arylsulfonyl (optionally substituted); and

if $m=1$; R^1 is an electron donating group selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, amino, and C_{1-12} alkoxy (optionally substituted with hydroxyl or amino), C_{1-12} dialkylamino (substituted with hydroxyl or amino), C_{1-12} alkylaryl amino (optionally substituted with hydroxyl or amino), and diarylamino (optionally substituted with hydroxyl or amino); R^2 is hydrogen, C_{1-12} alkyl, carboxy, hydroxy, C_{1-12} alkoxy, or halo; and at least one of the groups R^3 , R^4 and R^5 is an electron withdrawing group selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, cyano, COR^2 , C_{1-12} mono- or polyhaloalkyl, C_{1-12} alkenyl (substituted with an additional electron withdrawing group),

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halo, nitro, sulfonyl, C₁₋₁₂alkylsulfonyl (optionally substituted) and arylsulfonyl (optionally substituted); while the other of the groups R³, R⁴ and R⁵ are, independently, C₁₋₁₂alkyl, hydroxy, C₁₋₁₂alkoxy, amino, C₁₋₁₂alkylaryl amino (optionally substituted with hydroxyl or amino), diarylamino (optionally substituted with hydroxyl or amino), hydrogen, cyano, COR², C₁₋₁₂mono- or polyhaloalkyl, C₁₋₁₂alkenyl (substituted with an additional electron withdrawing group), halo, nitro, sulfonyl, C₁₋₁₂alkylsulfonyl (optionally substituted), or arylsulfonyl (optionally substituted); and

if m=2-9; R¹ is an electron donating group selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, amino, C₁₋₁₂alkoxy (optionally substituted with hydroxyl or amino), C₁₋₁₂dialkylamino (optionally substituted with hydroxyl or amino), C₁₋₁₂alkylaryl amino (optionally substituted with hydroxyl or amino), and diarylamino (optionally substituted with hydroxyl or amino); R² is hydrogen, C₁₋₁₂alkyl, carboxy, hydroxy, C₁₋₁₂alkoxy, or halo; and at least one of the groups R³, R⁴ and R⁵ is an electron withdrawing group selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, cyano, COR², C₁₋₁₂mono- or polyhaloalkyl, C₁₋₁₂alkenyl (substituted with an additional electron withdrawing group), halo, nitro, sulfonyl, C₁₋₁₂alkylsulfonyl (optionally substituted), and arylsulfonyl (optionally substituted); while the other of the groups R³, R⁴ and R⁵ are, independently, C₁₋₁₂alkyl, hydroxy, C₁₋₁₂alkoxy, amino, C₁₋₁₂alkylaryl amino (optionally substituted with hydroxyl or amino), diarylamino (optionally substituted with hydroxyl or amino), hydrogen, cyano, COR², C₁₋₁₂mono- or polyhaloalkyl, C₁₋₁₂alkenyl (substituted with an additional electron withdrawing group), halo, nitro, sulfonyl, C₁₋₁₂alkylsulfonyl (optionally substituted), or arylsulfonyl (optionally substituted).

The polyaryl compounds can comprise a single diazo functionality, and optimally comprises a plurality of diazo linkages (i.e., at least two linkages), and the compounds desirably comprise optical nonlinear second-order properties. Apart from being previously undescribed, the compounds of the invention furthermore are novel in that they absorb more in the UV or IR region than previously reported chromophoric compounds.

In another aspect, the subject invention relates to compounds which desirably exhibit 2^o-NLO properties. The optical nonlinear second-order compounds of the present invention also have unique light absorption maximum.

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Another aspect of the invention is directed toward a composition containing said compounds in combination with optically acceptable polymer support.

Another aspect of this invention relates to compounds according to this invention that can be employed in devices such as a multifunctional optical switch. Other uses of the compounds of the invention would be apparent to one skilled in the art.

Additional features and variations of the invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art from the entirety of this application, including the detailed description, and all such features are intended as aspects of the invention. Likewise, features of the invention described herein can be recombined into additional embodiments that also are intended as aspects of the inventions irrespective of whether the combination of features is specifically mentioned above (or herein) as an aspect or embodiment of the invention (e.g., any one or more of the above aspects of the invention can be combined to produce a variety of substituted polyaryl chromophoric compounds with any desired properties). Also, only such limitations which are described herein as critical to the invention should be viewed as such; variations of the invention lacking limitations which have not been described herein as critical are intended as aspects of the invention. In addition to the foregoing, the invention includes, as an additional aspect, all embodiments of the invention narrower in scope in any way than the variations specifically mentioned above (and herein).

The detailed description and examples which follow are provided to enhance the understanding of the invention, but are not intended to limit the scope of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The invention provides for novel substituted-polyaryl chromophoric compounds which desirably comprise a single diazo group, and optimally include a plurality of diazo groups.

As used herein, certain standard terms and phrases are employed in describing the invention. Some of the more commonly used terms and phrases have meanings, definitions, and explanations known in the art and are described in more detail below. Should there be any term that is left undefined, or any possible

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ambiguity in the meaning of a term, the broadest possible definition known in the optics/chemical fields that is consistent with the scope and goals of the invention is to be applied. Also, like numbering is used for the same compounds in the Scheme and in the descriptive text.

5 “Alkyl” refers to a cyclic, branched, or straight chain aliphatic group containing only carbon and hydrogen, for example, methyl, pentyl, and adamantyl. Alkyl groups can be unsubstituted or substituted with one or more substituents, *e.g.*, halogen, alkoxy, acyloxy, amino, hydroxyl, mercapto, carboxy, benzyloxy, aryl, and benzyl. Alkyl groups can be saturated or unsaturated (*e.g.*, containing alkenyl or
10 alkynyl subunits at one or several positions). Typically, alkyl groups contain 1 to about 12 carbon atoms, preferably 1 to about 10, or 1 to about 8 carbon atoms.

 “Aryl” refers to a monovalent aromatic carbocyclic or heterocyclic group having a single ring (*e.g.*, phenyl), multiple rings (*e.g.*, biphenyl), or multiple condensed rings (*e.g.*, naphthyl or anthryl). Aryl groups can be unsubstituted or
15 substituted with amino, hydroxyl, alkyl, heteroalkyl, alkoxy, halo, mercapto, sulfonyl, nitro, and other substituents. Typically, the aryl group is a substituted single ring compound. For example, the aryl group is a substituted phenyl ring.

 The term “halo” or “halogen” is defined herein to include fluorine, bromine, chlorine, and iodine.

20 The term “alkoxy” is defined as -OR, wherein R is alkyl of one to twelve carbons attached to an oxygen forming such groups as methoxy, ethyloxy, butyloxy, and the like, and isomeric forms thereof.

 The term “hydroxy” is defined as -OH.

25 The term “amino” is defined as -NR₂, wherein each R, independently, is alkyl or hydrogen.

 The term “cyano” is defined as -CN.

 The term “sulfonyl” is defined as HOSO₂-

 The term “alkylsulfonyl” is defined as R-SO₂-, where R is alkyl.

 The term “arylsulfonyl” is defined as R-SO₂-, where R is aryl.

30 The term “diazo” is defined as -N=N-.

 The term “electron donating group” is defined as a group that tends to

donate the electrons in a covalent bond away from itself. Unless otherwise specified, any appropriate electron donating group can be employed according to the invention. Similarly, "optionally substituted" indicates that any appropriate group can be employed for substitution.

5 The term "electron withdrawing group" is defined as a group that tends to attract or draw the electrons in a covalent bond toward itself. Unless otherwise specified, any appropriate electron withdrawing group can be employed according to the invention.

10 The chemical formulas representing various compounds or molecular fragments in the specification and claims may contain variable substituents in addition to expressly defined structural features. These variable substituents are identified by a letter or a letter followed by a numerical superscript, for example, "Arⁱ" or "Rⁱ" where "i" is an integer. These variable substituents are either monovalent or bivalent, that is, they, represent a group attached to the formula by one or two chemical bonds.

15 Groups Rⁱ and R^j represent monovalent variable substituents if attached to the formula CH₃-CH₂-C(Rⁱ)(R^j)H. When chemical formulas are drawn in a linear fashion, such as those above, variable substituents contained in parenthesis are bonded to the atom immediately to the left of the variable substituent enclosed in parenthesis. When two or more consecutive variable substituents are enclosed in parenthesis, each of the
20 consecutive variable substituents is bonded to the immediately preceding atom to the left which is not enclosed in parentheses. Thus, in the formula above, both Rⁱ and R^j are bonded to the preceding carbon atom.

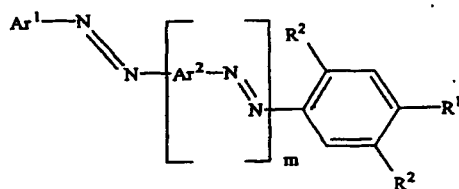
Chemical formulas or portions thereof drawn in a linear fashion represents atoms in a linear chain. The symbol "-" in general represents a bond
25 between two atoms in the chain. Thus, "HO-CH₂-CH(R^j)-CH₃" represents a 2-substituted-1-hydroxypropane compound. In a similar fashion, the symbol "=" represents a double bond, e.g., NH₂=N(R^j)-CH₃.

30 The carbon atom content of variable substituents is indicated in one or two ways. The first method uses a prefix to the entire name of the variable such as "C₁-C₄", where both "1" and "4" are integers representing the minimum and maximum number of carbon atoms in the variable. The prefix is separated from the variable by a

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space. For example, "C₁-C₄ alkyl" represents alkyl of 1 through 4 carbon atoms, (including isomeric forms thereof unless an express indication to the contrary is given). Whenever this single prefix is given, the prefix indicates the entire carbon atom content of the variable being defined. Thus C₂-C₄ alkoxy describes a group CH₃-(CH₂)_n-O where n is zero, one or two. By the second method, the carbon atom content of only each portion of the definition is indicated separately by enclosing the "C₁-C_j" designation in parentheses and placing it immediately (no intervening space) before the portion of the definition being defined. By this optional convention (C₁-C₃) alkoxycarbonyl has the same meaning as C₂-C₄ alkoxycarbonyl because the "C₁-C₃" refers only to the carbon atom content of the alkoxy group. Similarly while both C₂-C₆ alkoxyalkyl and (C₁-C₃) alkoxy-(C₁-C₃) alkyl define alkoxyalkyl groups containing from 2 to 6 carbon atoms, the two definitions differ since the former definition allows either the alkoxy or alkyl portion alone to contain 4 or 5 carbon atoms while the latter definition limits either of these groups to 3 carbon atoms. With respect to the above definition, C₁₋₇ alkyl is methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, pentyl, hexyl, and the like, and isomeric forms thereof.

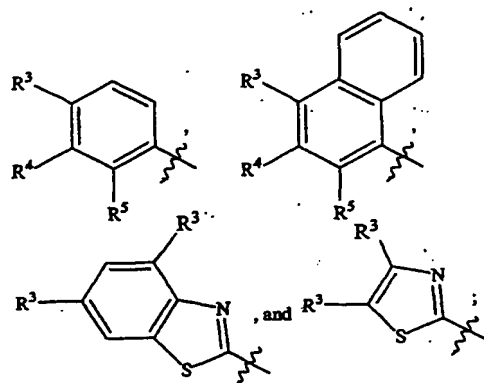
The invention pertains to novel substituted-polyaryl diazo compounds which exhibit 2°-NLO properties as described herein and that, among other things, desirably can be utilized in a waveguide or multifunctional optical switch. Formula (I) depicts the chemical structure of a diazo compound according to the present invention:



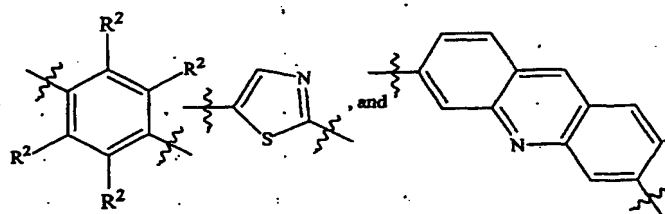
(I)

wherein Ar¹ is selected from the group consisting of:

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Ar^2 is selected from the group consisting of:



- 5 and if $m=0$; R^1 is an electron donating group selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, C_{2-12} alkoxy (optionally substituted with hydroxyl or amino), C_{7-12} dialkylamino (optionally substituted with hydroxyl or amino), and C_{1-12} alkylaryl amino, (optionally substituted with hydroxyl or amino); R^2 is hydrogen, C_{1-12} alkyl, carboxy, hydroxy, C_{1-12} alkoxy, or halo; and at least one of the groups R^3 , R^4 and R^5 is an electron withdrawing group selected from the group consisting of
- 10 hydrogen, cyano, COR^2 , C_{1-12} mono- or polyhaloalkyl, C_{1-12} alkenyl (substituted with

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an additional electron withdrawing group), halo, nitro, sulfonyl, C₁₋₁₂alkylsulfonyl (optionally substituted), and arylsulfonyl (optionally substituted); while the other of the groups R³, R⁴ and R⁵ are, independently, C₁₋₁₂alkyl, hydroxy, C₁₋₁₂alkoxy, amino, C₁₋₁₂alkylarylamino (optionally substituted with hydroxyl or amino), diarylamino, (optionally substituted with hydroxyl or amino), hydrogen, cyano, COR², C₁₋₁₂mono- or polyhaloalkyl, C₁₋₁₂alkenyl (substituted with an additional electron withdrawing group), halo, nitro, sulfonyl, C₁₋₁₂alkylsulfonyl (optionally substituted), or arylsulfonyl (optionally substituted); and

if m=1; R¹ is an electron donating group selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, amino, and C₁₋₁₂alkoxy (optionally substituted with hydroxyl or amino), C₁₋₁₂dialkylamino (substituted with hydroxyl or amino), C₁₋₁₂alkylarylamino (optionally substituted with hydroxyl or amino), and diarylamino (optionally substituted with hydroxyl or amino); R² is hydrogen, C₁₋₁₂alkyl, carboxy, hydroxy, C₁₋₁₂alkoxy, or halo; and at least one of the groups R³, R⁴ and R⁵ is an electron withdrawing group selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, cyano, COR², C₁₋₁₂mono- or polyhaloalkyl, C₁₋₁₂alkenyl (substituted with an additional electron withdrawing group), halo, nitro, sulfonyl, C₁₋₁₂alkylsulfonyl (optionally substituted) and arylsulfonyl (optionally substituted); while the other of the groups R³, R⁴ and R⁵ are, independently, C₁₋₁₂alkyl, hydroxy, C₁₋₁₂alkoxy, amino, C₁₋₁₂alkylarylamino (optionally substituted with hydroxyl or amino), diarylamino (optionally substituted with hydroxyl or amino), hydrogen, cyano, COR², C₁₋₁₂mono- or polyhaloalkyl, C₁₋₁₂alkenyl (substituted with an additional electron withdrawing group), halo, nitro, sulfonyl, C₁₋₁₂alkylsulfonyl (optionally substituted), or arylsulfonyl (optionally substituted); and

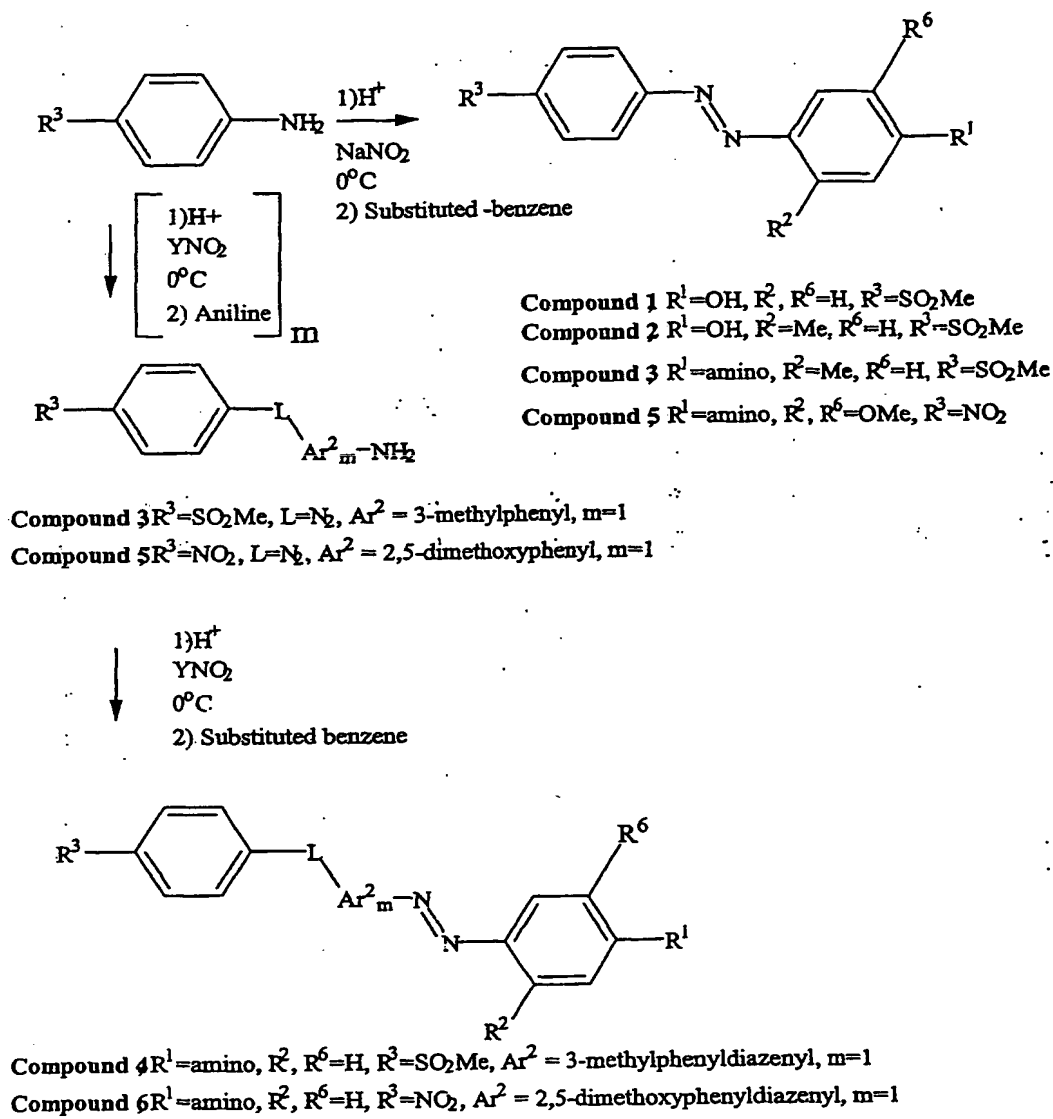
if m=2-9; R¹ is an electron donating group selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, amino, C₁₋₁₂alkoxy (optionally substituted with hydroxyl or amino), C₁₋₁₂dialkylamino (optionally substituted with hydroxyl or amino), C₁₋₁₂alkylarylamino (optionally substituted with hydroxyl or amino), and diarylamino (optionally substituted with hydroxyl or amino); R² is hydrogen, C₁₋₁₂alkyl, carboxy, hydroxy, C₁₋₁₂alkoxy, or halo; and at least one of the groups R³, R⁴ and R⁵ is an electron withdrawing group selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, cyano,

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COR², C₁₋₁₂mono- or polyhaloalkyl, C₁₋₁₂alkenyl (substituted with an additional electron withdrawing group), halo, nitro, sulfonyl, C₁₋₁₂alkylsulfonyl (optionally substituted), and arylsulfonyl (optionally substituted); while the other of the groups R³, R⁴ and R⁵ are, independently, C₁₋₁₂alkyl, hydroxy, C₁₋₁₂alkoxy, amino, C₁₋₁₂alkylarylamino (optionally substituted with hydroxyl or amino), diarylamino (optionally substituted with hydroxyl or amino), hydrogen, cyano, COR², C₁₋₁₂mono- or polyhaloalkyl, C₁₋₁₂alkenyl (substituted with an additional electron withdrawing group), halo, nitro, sulfonyl, C₁₋₁₂alkylsulfonyl (optionally substituted), or arylsulfonyl (optionally substituted).

The chromophoric compounds of this invention are prepared as described briefly here and in more detail in the examples which follow. Scheme 1 illustrates the general method and specific examples of synthesizing the chromophoric compounds of the invention, as further described in the Examples which follow.

Scheme 1.



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Preferably, chromophores are synthesized using as a starting point an appropriately substituted aniline, preferably containing a electron withdrawing group (EWG) at the 4-position (R^1), such as a cyano, carbonyl, C_{1-12} mono- or polyhaloalkyl, C_{1-12} alkenyl, substituted with an additional electron withdrawing group; halo, nitro, sulfonyl, C_{1-12} alkylsulfonyl or arylsulfonyl derivative. These materials are readily available from a number of commercial vendors or alternatively, are known in the chemical literature and may be readily prepared by one skilled in the art. These aniline compounds are then subsequently reacted following procedures known, or readily acquired by one skilled in the art. In one embodiment, the appropriately substituted aniline is first treated with an acid catalyst and a diazotizing reagent, such as sodium nitrite ($Y=Na$) or nitrosyl sulfuric acid ($Y=HSO_3$), and then subsequently treated with an sufficiently electron rich, substituted-benzene such that the subsequent aromatic substitution reaction provides, in a one-pot reaction sequence, the respective crude diazo-linked, substituted diaryl compounds (Compounds 1-3,5) in moderate to high yields (i.e., Scheme 1, reaction depicted proceeding right). The products (Compounds 1-3,5) may then be further purified following chromatographic techniques well known in the art. Examples of acid catalysts that can be used include hydrochloric acid, phosphoric acid, and sulfuric acid. Examples of electron rich, substituents on benzene include, but are not limited to, C_{1-12} alkyl, hydroxyl, C_{1-12} alkoxy, amino, C_{1-12} dialkylamino, and the like, and combinations thereof.

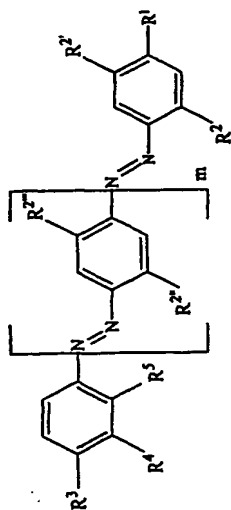
In another embodiment, the substituted-polyaryl compounds of the invention have multiple diazo linking groups between the substituted aryl groups. In these cases the extended diazo-linkage is formed prior to the substitution reaction with the final electron rich, substituted-benzene. This is also shown in Scheme 1 (i.e., reaction depicted proceeding downward). For example, the starting aniline is treated with an acid catalyst and diazotizing reagent, such as sodium nitrite or nitrosyl sulfuric acid, as in the method above, and then subsequently treated with another, substituted-aniline such that the subsequent aromatic substitution reaction provides a diazo-linked arylaniline intermediate (Compounds 3 and 5). This process can be repeated multiple times to form polydiazo aryl aniline intermediates before terminating the reaction sequence by reaction with the final electron rich, substituted-

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benzene (Compounds 4 and 6).

A third embodiment to produce the substituted-polyaryl compounds of the invention involves a similar set of reactions as that disclosed in Scheme 1 with either a substituted 2-amino-benzothiazole or a substituted 2-amino-thiazole instead of the starting substituted aniline. Examples of some substituted-polyaryl-diazo chromophoric compounds of the present invention are given in Table 1 and Table 2.

Table 1. Phenyl diazo chromophores

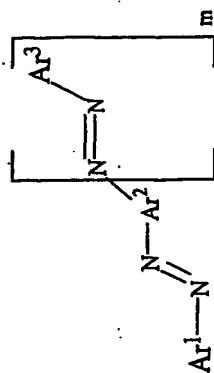


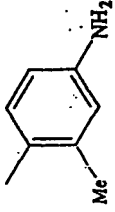
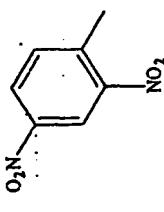
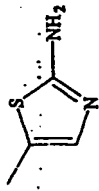
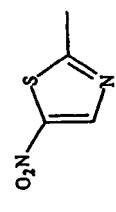
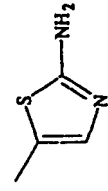
Compound #	m	R ¹	R ²	R ^{2'}	R ^{2''}	R ^{2'''}	R ³	R ⁴	R ⁵
1	0	OH	H	H	-	-	SO ₂ CH ₃	H	H
2	0	OH	CH ₃	H	-	-	SO ₂ CH ₃	H	H
3	0	NH ₂	CH ₃	H	-	-	SO ₂ CH ₃	H	H
4	1	OH	H	H	CH ₃	H	SO ₂ CH ₃	H	H
5	0	NH ₂	OCH ₃	OCH ₃	-	-	NO ₂	H	H
6	1	N(C ₂ H ₅)(C ₂ H ₅ OH)	H	H	OCH ₃	OCH ₃	NO ₂	H	H
7	0	NH ₂	H	H	H	H	CF ₃	H	H
8	0	N(C ₂ H ₅)(C ₂ H ₅ OH)	H	H	H	H	CF ₃	H	NO ₂
9	0	NH ₂	H	H	CH ₃	H	CF ₃	H	NO ₂
10	0	N(C ₂ H ₅)(C ₂ H ₅ OH)	H	H	H	H	NO ₂	CF ₃	H


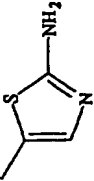
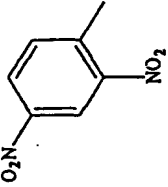
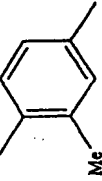
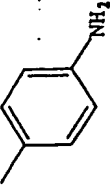
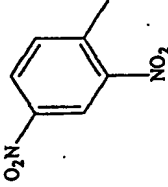
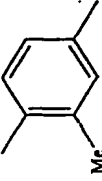
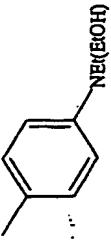
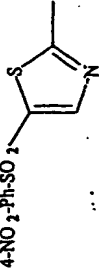
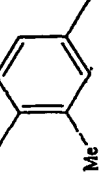
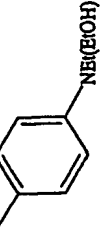
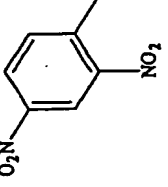
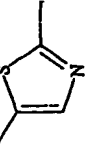
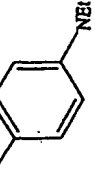
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12	0	NH ₂	H	H	H	CH ₃	H	NO ₂	H	NO ₂
13	1	OC ₈ H ₁₇	H	H	H	CH ₃	H	SO ₂ CH ₃	H	H
14	1	N(C ₂ H ₅) ₂	H	H	H	CH ₃	H	SO ₂ CH ₃	H	H
15	1	OH	CH ₃	H	H	CH ₃	H	SO ₂ CH ₃	H	H
16	1	OH	H	H	H	CH ₃	H	NO ₂	H	H
17	1	OH	CH ₃	H	H	CH ₃	H	NO ₂	H	H
18	1	O(CH ₂) ₇ OH	H	H	H	CH ₃	H	CF ₃	H	H
19	1	N(C ₂ H ₅)(C ₂ H ₅ OH)	H	H	H	OCH ₃	OCH ₃	NO ₂	H	H
20	1	NH ₂	CH ₃	H	H	H	H	NO ₂	H	H
21	1	O(CH ₂) ₇ OH	H	H	H	CH ₃	H	SO ₂ CH ₃	H	H
22	1	OH	H	H	H	CH ₃	H	CF ₃	H	H
23	1	OH	H	H	H	CH ₃	H	F	H	H
24	1	N(C ₂ H ₅)(C ₂ H ₅ OH)	H	H	H	CH ₃	H	CF ₃	H	NO ₂
25	1	N(C ₂ H ₅)(C ₂ H ₅ OH)	H	H	H	CH ₃	H	NO ₂	CF ₃	H
26	1	N(C ₂ H ₅)(C ₂ H ₅ OH)	H	H	H	CH ₃	H	NO ₂	H	NO ₂
27	1	NH ₂	CH ₃	H	H	CH ₃	H	NO ₂	H	NO ₂
28	1	OH	H	H	H	H	CO ₂ H	SO ₂ CH ₃	H	H

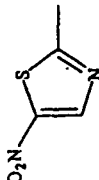
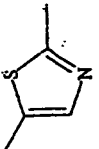
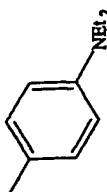
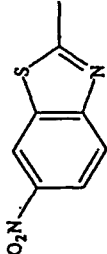
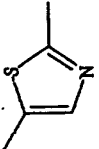
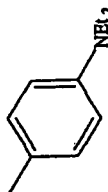
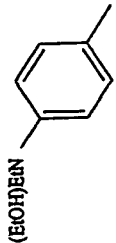
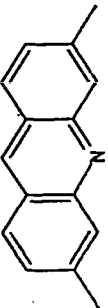
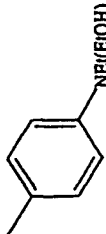
29		1	OH	H	H	CH ₃	H	CH ₃	SO ₂ CH ₃	H	H
30		1	NH ₂	CH ₃	H	CH ₃	H	CH ₃	SO ₂ CH ₃	H	H
31		2	N(C ₂ H ₅) ₂	H	H	CH ₃	H	CH ₃	SO ₂ CH ₃	H	H
32		2	N(C ₂ H ₅)(C ₂ H ₅ OH)	H	H	CH ₃	H	CH ₃	SO ₂ CH ₃	H	H
33		2	OH	H	H	CH ₃	H	CH ₃	SO ₂ CH ₃	H	H
34		2	O(CH ₂) ₇ OH	H	H	CH ₃	H	CH ₃	SO ₂ CH ₃	H	H
35		2	O(CH ₂) ₇ OH	H	H	H	H	H	OCH ₃	H	H
36		2	NH ₂	CH ₃	H	CH ₃	H	CH ₃	SO ₂ CH ₃	H	H
37		2	OH	H	H	CH ₃	H	CH ₃	NO ₂	H	H
38		2	OC ₈ H ₁₇	H	H	CH ₃	H	CH ₃	NO ₂	H	H
39		2	NCH ₃ (C ₈ H ₁₇)	H	H	CH ₃	H	CH ₃	NO ₂	H	H
40		2	NH ₂	H	H	CH ₃	H	CH ₃	NO ₂	H	H
41		2	N(C ₂ H ₅)(C ₂ H ₅ OH)	H	H	CH ₃	H	CH ₃	NO ₂	H	NO ₂
42		3	N(C ₂ H ₅) ₂	H	H	CH ₃	H	CH ₃	SO ₂ CH ₃	H	H
43		3	OH	H	H	CH ₃	H	CH ₃	SO ₂ CH ₃	H	H
44		3	NCH ₃ (C ₈ H ₁₇)	H	H	CH ₃	H	CH ₃	NO ₂	H	H

Table 2. Heteroaryl diazo chromophores



Compound #	m	Ar ¹	Ar ²	Ar ³
45	0	4-NO ₂ -Ph-SO ₂ -		
46	0			
47	0			

48	0			
49	1			
50	1			
51	1			
52	1			

53	1				
54	1				
55	1				

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The substituted-polyaryl diazo chromophoric compounds of the invention preferably comprise second-order nonlinear optical (2°-NLO) properties as set forth herein, and further described below. A second-order nonlinear optical (2°-NLO) compound is a compound that is "optically active" — i.e., its index of refraction changes due to an applied electric field, and the change is proportional to the square of the applied electric field. The electric field is generated with any appropriate power source (e.g., AC or DC power source), and communicated to a chromophore (e.g., present in a polymer contained in an optical waveguide or switch) by means of an electrode. Any electrode having the ability to conduct charge and capable of functioning as an "electrode" as that term is understood in the art can be employed. Generally, an electrode need only supply a small amount of voltage, e.g., from 0 to about 50 volts, although in certain applications, it may be preferable to employ a higher voltage.

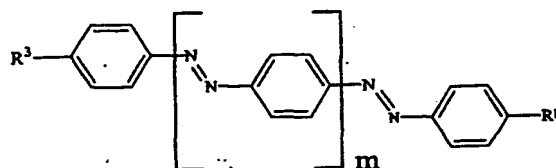
Desirably, for use in an optical waveguide or switch, a chromophore according to the invention has an absorption wavelength from between about 200 nm and about 800 nm, preferably from between about 300 nm and about 600 nm. The preferred chromophores according to the invention also desirably have an effective cis-trans isomerization process when excited at their absorption wavelengths. Also, desirably, the chromophores are such that polarization alone can be used to induce alignment in the chromophores (e.g., as described in Rochon et al., "Optically Induced and Erased Birefringence and Dichroism in Azoaromatic Polymers", *Appl. Phys. Lett.* 60, pages 4-5 (1992); Kim et al., "Laser Induced Holographic Surface Relief gratings on Nonlinear Optical Polymer Films", *Appl. Phys. Lett.* 66, pages 1166-1168, (1995)) which is helpful in preparing optical waveguides or switches. Optimally this induced alignment will be in the direction to reduce interaction with the incident polarized light. These materials according to the invention thus provide great flexibility in terms of chemical modification, such modification which may be desirable in optimizing the properties of the compound for use in optical applications (although uses for the chromophores other than in optic switches and waveguides are contemplated according to the invention). For instance, from a dialkyl amino nitro diazo compound it is possible to change the electron donor in the chromophore from

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nitrogen to oxygen and the electron acceptor from nitro to sulfone to get an alkoxy sulfone diazo compound.

According to the invention, and, as further described below, an optical switch or waveguide can be obtained that utilizes the compounds disclosed herein with 2°-NLO properties. In particular, compounds disclosed herein can be utilized in an optical switch or waveguide as described in U.S. Serial No. 09/357,201 and PCT/US00/19921, incorporated by reference in their entireties. A "waveguide" is an entity of material boundaries or structures for guiding electromagnetic waves or energy (i.e., carrying one or more optical signals). An "optical switch" is a device that is capable of changing the path of light from one waveguide to another (e.g., an optical wavelength division multiplexer/demultiplexer, optical add/drop multiplexer, and/or optical interconnect). A "device" includes a single entity such as a waveguide or any combination of elements (e.g., optical switch such as optical wavelength division multiplexer/demultiplexer, optical add/drop multiplexer, optical interconnect, and the like) either alone, or, in a higher level of organization (e.g., present in a system or subsystem such as a board or motherboard). The compounds with 2°-NLO properties that are utilized in these devices are typically obtained by chemical conjugation of a 2°-NLO chromophore onto a polymer or by merely mixing a 2°-NLO chromophore with a polymer in a process commonly known as "doping" (e.g., as described in Marder et al., *supra*, Saaedeh et al., *supra*, Yu et al., *supra*, U.S. Serial No. 09/357,201; PCT/US00/19921, and references cited therein, as well as in other references). This renders it possible to induce and manipulate the refractive index of the polymer films by using the appropriate wavelength of light. The chromophore incorporated in the polyimide can be any chromophore, but desirably is a chromophore including, but not limited to: (a) the novel chromophores described herein, or (b) those chromophores depicted in Table 3 (which are known and have been described in the art). In Table 3 below, " μ " is the dipolar moment of the molecule, " β " is the hyperpolarizability, and " λ " is the wavelength.

Table 3.



m	R ¹	R ³	$\mu\beta \times 10^{48}$ (esu)	λ_{\max} (nm)
0	N(CH ₃) ₂	NO ₂	751	480
0	N(CH ₃) ₂	NO ₂	788	486
0	N(Ph) ₂	NO ₂	996	494
0	N(C ₂ H ₅) ₂	CHC(CN) ₂	1,360	526
0	N(Ph) ₂	C ₂ (CN) ₃	2,776	602
1	N(4-NH ₂ Ph) ₂	NO ₂	19,000	504
1	N(C ₂ H ₅) ₂	C ₂ (CN) ₃	24,000	-

The concentration of chromophores in a polymer can be carefully adjusted by copolymerization to control the refractive index at the expense of the nonlinearity (e.g., as described in Girton et al., "Electrooptic Polymer Mach-Zehnder Modulator", *In ACS Symposium Series 601, Polymers for Second-Order Nonlinear Optics* (Washington D.C. 1995) 456-468, and Keil, "Realization of IO-Polymer-Components and present state in Polymer Technology", *In, Integrated Optics and Micro-Optics with Polymers* (Stuttgart-Leipzig: B.G. Teubner Verlagsgesellschaft, 1993), 273). In "doping" techniques it is preferable that the concentration of the chromophore be between about 3% and about 10% of the total polymer mixture. By changing the pendant chromophore in the polymer employed, devices having unique and highly differentiable optical properties can be obtained. Other variations such as would be obvious to one skilled in the art are contemplated by the invention. Thus, the present invention optimally provides for a uniquely designed family of substituted-polyaryl

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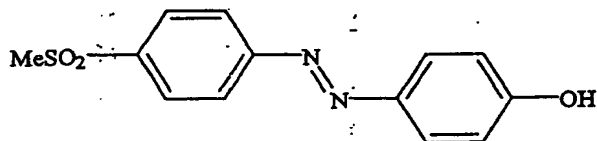
diazo chromophoric compounds, which can be optionally combined with polymers to be used in devices, such as a optical switch.

The invention will now be described with reference to the following illustrative Examples. The following Examples are by means of illustration, not limitation. Of course, variation of these Examples in the spirit and scope of the invention are contemplated herein.

Example 1: Preparation of

1-[(4-hydroxyphenyl)diazenyl]-4-(methylsulfonyl)benzene (Compound 1)

As described herein, the structure of 1-[(4-hydroxyphenyl)diazenyl]-4-(methylsulfonyl)benzene (Compound 1) is:



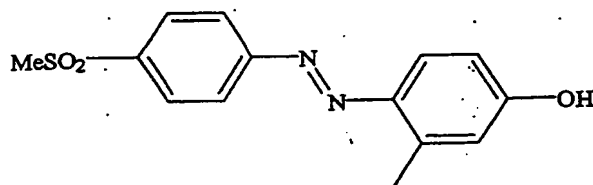
In this Example and all subsequent Examples, reagents were purchased from Aldrich, Acros, or Sigma and used without further purification. However, comparable materials from other vendors can be employed instead. All temperatures are in degrees Centigrade. When solvent pairs are used, the ratios of solvents used are volume/volume (v/v). When the solubility of a solid in a solvent is used, the ratio of the solid to the solvent is weight/volume (wt/v). Reactions with moisture-sensitive reagents were performed under nitrogen atmosphere. Determination of the concentration of solutions after workup was performed by reduced pressure rotary evaporation. Preparative thin-layer chromatography (TLC) were performed using EM silica gel (SG) 60 F254 plates (20 x 20 cm, thickness 2 mm). NMR refers to nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy; ¹H NMR refers to proton nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy with chemical shifts reported in ppm downfield from tetramethylsilane. Mass-spectra (MS) refers to mass spectrometry expressed as m/e or mass/charge unit and was obtained using electron impact (EI) technique. [M+H]⁺ refers to the positive ion of a parent plus a hydrogen atom. IR refers to infrared spectroscopy; FTIR refers to Fourier Transform IR.

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For these studies, p-Methylsulfonylaniline (Ulman, A. et. al., *JACS*, 112, 7083, (1990)) (0.96 g, 5.61 mmol) was sequentially treated with hydrogen chloride (HCl) (10 ml of a 6M solution, 6 mmol) and sodium nitrite (0.426 g, 6.18 mmol) while the temperature was maintained between 0- 5 °C. The reagents were allowed to dissolve and the resulting solution was allowed to stir for about 15 minutes. The resulting diazonium compound was then treated with hydrogen tetrafluoroborate to give a tetrafluoroborate diazonium salt. The resulting tetrafluoroborate (BF₄) diazonium salt was divided into two portions. Half of the diazonium salt was added to a solution of phenol (0.22 g, 2.3 mmol) and potassium hydroxide (KOH) (0.11 g, 2 mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (THF). The resulting orange-red mixture was stirred for 0.5 h and then neutralized with acetic acid (HOAc) to give a yellow-orange solid. This solid was filtered and recrystallized from THF/Hexanes to give 0.4 g (63%) of Compound 1.

Example 2: Preparation of 1-[(4-hydroxy-2-methylphenyl)diazenyl]-4-(methylsulfonyl)benzene (Compound 2)

As described herein, the structure of 1-[(4-hydroxy-2-methylphenyl)diazenyl]-4-(methylsulfonyl)benzene (Compound 2) is:

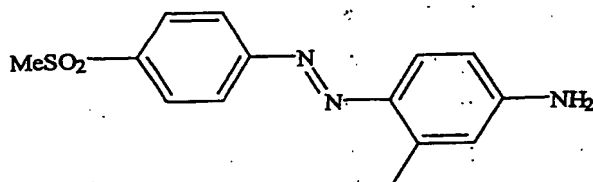


For these studies, half of the diazonium salt from example 1 was added to a solution of m-cresol (0.285g, 2.34 mmol) and KOH (0.13 g, 2 mmol) in THF. The resulting red mixture was stirred for 0.5 h and then neutralized with HOAc to give a orange solid. This solid was filtered and recrystallized from THF/Hexanes to give 0.35 g (58%) of Compound 2.

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Example 3: Preparation of 1-[(4-amino-2-methylphenyl)diazenyl]-4-(methylsulfonyl)benzene (Compound 3)

As described herein, the structure of 1-[(4-amino-2-methylphenyl)diazenyl]-4-(methylsulfonyl)benzene (Compound 3) is:

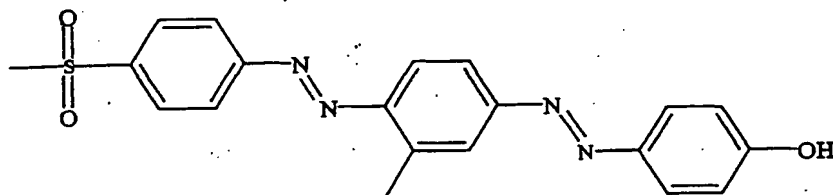


For their studies, p-Methylsulfonylaniline (1.42 g, 8.3 mmol) was sequentially treated with HCl (15 ml of a 6M solution, 9 mmol) and sodium nitrite (0.66 g, 9.12 mmol) while the temperature was maintained between 0- 5 °C. The reagents were allowed to dissolve and the resulting solution was allowed to stir for an about 15 minutes. The resulting diazonium compound was then treated with m-toluidine (0.9 g, 8.4 mmol) in THF, and allowed to stir for about 15 minutes to 1h. To the resulting red-orange mixture was added sodium acetate (NaOAc) (2 g, 2 mmol) or water and allowed to stir for about 16 h. The precipitated orange solid was filtered, sequentially washed with water/ethanol and hexanes, and dried under vacuum and recrystallized from EtOAc/Hexane to give 1.96 g (73.3%) of Compound 3.

Example 4: Preparation of 1-({4-[(4-hydroxyphenyl)diazenyl]-2-methylphenyl}diazenyl)-4-(methylsulfonyl)-benzene (Compound 4)

As described herein, the structure of 1-({4-[(4-hydroxyphenyl)diazenyl]-2-methylphenyl}diazenyl)-4-(methylsulfonyl)-benzene (Compound 4) is:

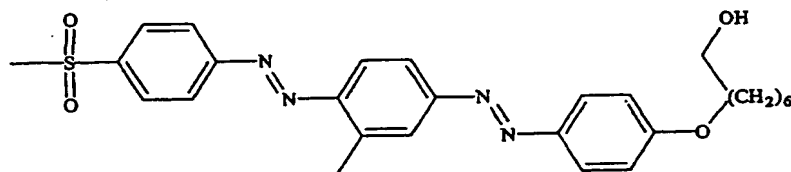
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Compound 3 (0.85g, 2.94 mmol) was sequentially treated with a HCl/phosphoric (H_2PO_4)/sulfuric acid (H_2SO_4) mixture and nitrosyl sulfuric acid (5 ml) while the temperature was maintained at about -15°C . The reagents were allowed to dissolve and the resulting solution was allowed to stir for an about 15 minutes. The resulting diazonium mixture was then treated with urea (0.5 g), stirred for about 10 minutes, treated with hydrogen tetrafluoroborate (15 ml), and stirred for an additional 20 minutes to give the tetrafluoroborate diazonium salt. The resulting tetrafluoroborate (BF_4) diazonium salt was filtered then added to a solution of phenol (0.31 g, 3.2 mmol) and sodium hydroxide (NaOH) (0.15 g, 3 mmol) or potassium hydroxide in THF/water (1:1). The resulting pink mixture was stirred for 0.5 h and then neutralized with 1N HCl to give a yellow-orange solid. This solid was filtered and recrystallized from THF/Hexanes or EtOH/ H_2O to give 0.92 g (79%) of Compound 4.

Example 5: Preparation of 1-({4-[(4-(7-hydroxy-n-heptoxyphenyl)diazenyl]-2-methylphenyl}diazenyl)-4-(methylsulfonyl)-benzene (Compound 21).

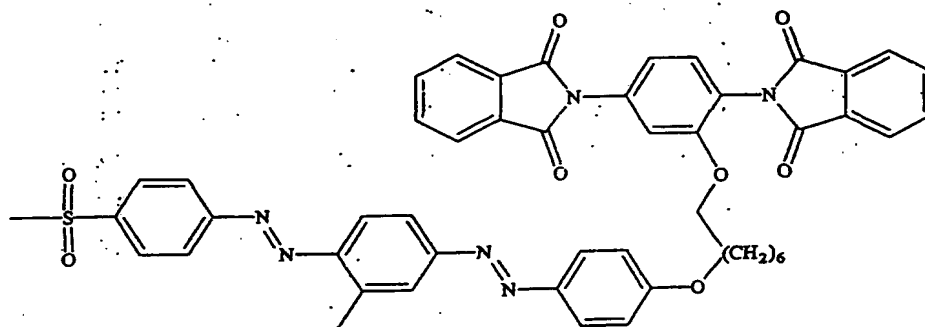
As described herein, the structure of 1-({4-[(4-(7-hydroxy-n-heptoxyphenyl)diazenyl]-2-methylphenyl}diazenyl)-4-(methylsulfonyl)-benzene (Compound 21) is:



A mixture of compound 4 (4.61 g, 11.7 mmol), 6-bromo-1-hexanol (2.50 g, 14.0 mmol), and K_2CO_3 (7.00g, 70.0 mmol) in 35 mL of dry acetone was refluxed for 48 h. The resulting orange-red mixture was treated with H_2O to dissolve excess K_2CO_3 and then filtered, washed thoroughly with H_2O then dried. The solid was recrystallized from $CHCl_3$ /Hexane to give compound 21 (6.90 g, 89.0 %).

Example 6: Preparation of 2-[4-(1,3-dioxoisindolin-2-yl)-2-(2-{4-[(3-methyl-4-{[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]diazenyl}phenyl)diazenyl]phenoxy}ethoxy)phenyl]isindoline-1,3-dione (Compound 56).

As described herein, the structure of 2-[4-(1,3-dioxoisindolin-2-yl)-2-(7-{4-[(3-methyl-4-[[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]diazenyl]phenyl)diazenyl]phenoxy}heptoxy)phenyl]isindoline-1,3-dione (Compound 56) is:



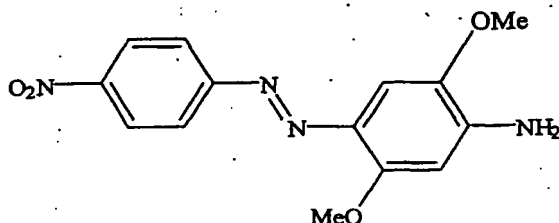
To a solution of 2-[4-(1,3-dioxoisindolin-2-yl)-2-hydroxyphenyl]isoindoline-1,3-dione prepared as described in Yu et al. *Macromolecules* 28: 784 (1995); 29: 6139, (1996); and *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 117: 11680 (1995) (1.82g, 4.76 mmol) 60 mL of anhydrous DMF under N₂, was added compound 21 (2.35g, 4.76 mmol) and triphenylphosphine (1.90 g, 7.30 mmol). The resulted solution was treated dropwise with a solution of diethylazidocarboxylate (1.27g, 7.3 mmol) in 5mL of anhydrous DMF. The reaction mixture was stirred for five hours, then precipitated into 100 mL of methanol. The product was collected by filtration and

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chromatographed using CHCl_3 / MeOH (99:1) to give compound 56 (1.90g, 47%), ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ 8.1 (d, $J=8.7$ Hz, 2H), 8.1 (d, $J=8.7$ Hz, 2H), 8.0 (d, 2H), 7.9 (s, 1H), 7.8 (m, 2H), 7.0 (d, $J=8.9$ Hz, 2H), 4.1 (t, $J=6.5$ Hz, 2H), 3.7 (t, $J=6.5$ Hz, 2H), 3.4 (t, $J=6.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.1 (s, 3H), 2.8 (s, 3H), 1.8 (m, 2H), 1.5 (m, 6H). Compound 56 was incorporated into a polymer backbone following the literature procedure described in Saadeh et al., *Macromolecules* 30(18): 5403 (1997). A ^1H NMR spectra was obtained.

Example 7: Preparation of 1-[(4-amino-2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)diazenyl]-4-nitrobenzene (Compound 5)

As described herein, the structure of 1-[(4-amino-2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)diazenyl]-4-nitrobenzene (Compound 5) is:

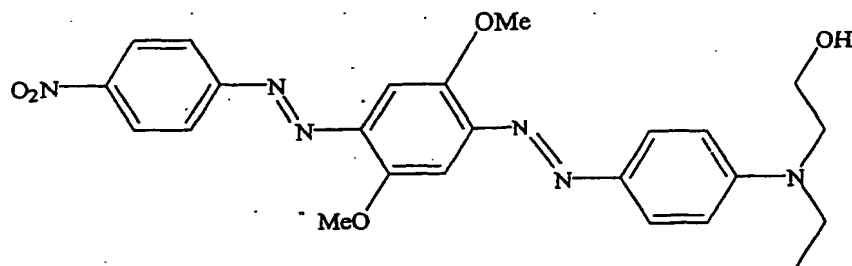


A diazonium salt synthesized from 4-nitroaniline using the procedure of example 1 (1.4 g, 5.9 mmol) was added portionwise to a solution of 2,4-dimethoxyaniline (0.97 g, 6.3 mmol) in dimethylformamide (DMF) (20 ml). The resulting red mixture was stirred for 1.5 h, filtered, and the resulting solid recrystallized from ethyl acetate (EtOAc)/Hexanes to give 1.3 g (70.6%) of Compound 5.

Example 8: Preparation of 1-({4-[(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)ethylaminophenyl)diazenyl]-2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)diazenyl}-4-nitrobenzene (Compound 6)

As described herein, the structure of 1-({4-[(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)ethylaminophenyl)diazenyl]-2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)diazenyl}-4-nitrobenzene (Compound 6) is:

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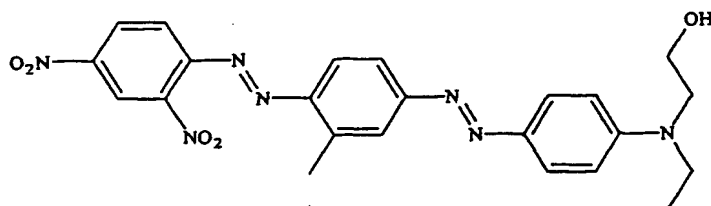


Compound 5 (0.4g, 1.29 mmol) was sequentially treated dropwise with a $\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4/\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ mixture (30 ml of a 4:1 mixture) and sodium nitrite (0.1g 1.55 mmol) while the temperature was maintained at about 0 °C. The reagents were allowed to dissolve and the resulting solution was allowed to stir for about 20 minutes. The resulting diazonium mixture was then treated with urea (0.5 g), stirred for about 10 minutes, treated with hydrogen tetrafluoroborate (15 ml), and stirred for an additional 20 minutes to give the tetrafluoroborate diazonium salt. The resulting tetrafluoroborate diazonium salt was filtered and added to a solution of N,N-ethyl-2-hydroxyethylaniline in THF. The resulting violet mixture was neutralized with NaOAc (5.0 g), stirred for about 0.5 h, and concentrated to give a green solid. This solid was filtered and recrystallized from THF/Hexanes to give 0.37 g (59%) of Compound 6.

Example 9: Preparation of 1-({4-[(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)ethylaminophenyl)diazenyl]-2-methylphenyl}diazenyl)-2,4-dinitrobenzene (Compound 26)

As described herein, the structure of 1-({4-[(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)ethylaminophenyl)diazenyl]-2-methylphenyl}diazenyl)-2,4-dinitrobenzene (Compound 26) is

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A diazonium salt was prepared by dissolving 2,4-dinitroaniline in an acid mixture of $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4/\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ and then treating the mixture with sodium nitrite while the temperature was maintained between 0-5 °C. The diazonium salt was isolated as its tetrafluoroborate salt following the previous procedures. The diazonium salt (2.00 g, 7.0 mmol) was then added to a solution of m-toluidine (0.94 g, 8.80 mmol) in 20 mL THF. The resulting red mixture was stirred for 1 h and a solid precipitated. The solid was filtered and recrystallized from THF/Hexane to give 1.50 g (71 %) of compound 12. Compound 12 was again diazotized and separated as its tetrafluoroborate salt following the previous procedure. A solution of N-ethyl-N-(2-hydroxyethyl)aniline (0.30g, 1.80mmol) in 30 mL of a THF/Acetone mixture (1:1), was treated with the diazonium salt (0.60 g, 1.53 mmol). The resultant purple solution was stirred for a further 1 hour then treated with water (20 mL). The precipitate was filtered and recrystallized from acetone-hexane to give the pure chromophore 26 (0.40 g, 45%). ^1H NMR (DMSO) δ 8.9 (s, 1H), 8.6 (d, $J=8.7$ Hz, 1H), 8.0 (d, $J=8.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.8 (m, 3H), 7.7 (m, 2H), 6.9 (d, $J=8.6$ Hz, 2H), 3.6 (m, 2H), 3.5 (m, 4H), 3.3 (s, 1H), 2.8 (s, 3H), 2.5 (s, 3H), 1.2 (t, $J=6.7$ Hz, 3H). Compound 26 was incorporated into a polymer backbone following the literature procedure described in Saadeh et al., *Macromolecules* 30(18): 5403 (1997). A ^1H NMR spectra was obtained.

All the references cited herein are hereby incorporated in their entireties by reference, as are, in particular, U.S. Serial Number 09/357,201 and PCT/US00/19921.

While the present invention has been described in terms of specific embodiments, it is understood that variations and modifications will occur to those in the art, all of which are intended as aspects of the present invention. Accordingly, only such limitations as appear in the claims should be placed on the invention.

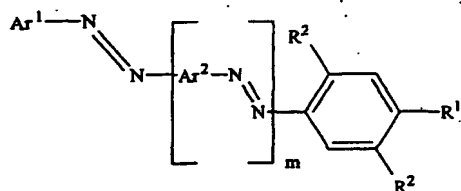
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Although the applicant(s) invented the full scope of the claims, the claims are not intended to encompass within their scope the prior art work of others. Therefore, in the event that statutory prior art within the scope of a claim is brought to the attention of the applicant(s) by a Patent Office or other entity or individual, the applicant(s) reserve the right to exercise amendment rights under applicable patent laws to redefine the subject matter of such a claim to specifically exclude such statutory prior art or obvious variations of prior art from the scope of such a claim. Variations of the invention defined by such amended claims also are intended as aspects of the invention. Accordingly, this invention includes all modifications encompassed within the spirit and scope of the invention.

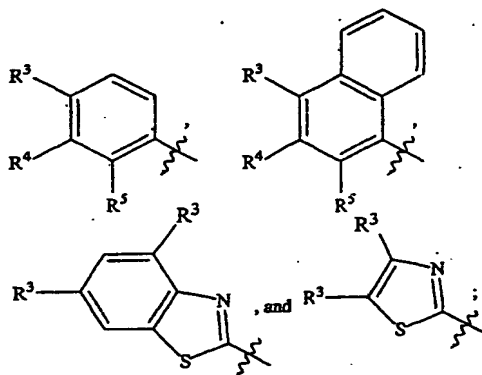
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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

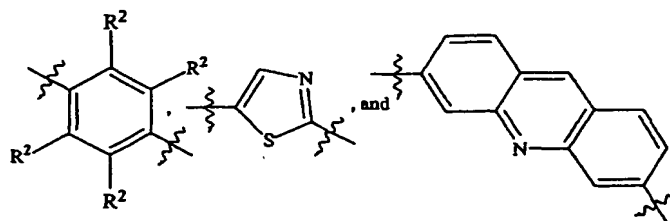
1. A compound of the formula:



- 5 wherein Ar¹ is selected from the group consisting of:



Ar² is selected from the group consisting of:



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and if $m=0$; R^1 is an electron donating group selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, C_{2-12} alkoxy (optionally substituted with hydroxyl or amino), C_{7-12} dialkylamino (optionally substituted with hydroxyl or amino), and C_{1-12} alkylaryl amino, (optionally substituted with hydroxyl or amino); R^2 is hydrogen, C_{1-12} alkyl, carboxy, hydroxy, C_{1-12} alkoxy, or halo; and at least one of the groups R^3 , R^4 and R^5 is an electron withdrawing group selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, cyano, COR^2 , C_{1-12} mono- or polyhaloalkyl, C_{1-12} alkenyl (substituted with an additional electron withdrawing group), halo, nitro, sulfonyl, C_{1-12} alkylsulfonyl (optionally substituted), and arylsulfonyl (optionally substituted); while the other of the groups R^3 , R^4 and R^5 are, independently, C_{1-12} alkyl, hydroxy, C_{1-12} alkoxy, amino, C_{1-12} alkylaryl amino (optionally substituted with hydroxyl or amino), diarylamino, (optionally substituted with hydroxyl or amino), hydrogen, cyano, COR^2 , C_{1-12} mono- or polyhaloalkyl, C_{1-12} alkenyl (substituted with an additional electron withdrawing group), halo, nitro, sulfonyl, C_{1-12} alkylsulfonyl (optionally substituted), or arylsulfonyl (optionally substituted); and

if $m=1$; R^1 is an electron donating group selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, amino, and C_{1-12} alkoxy (optionally substituted with hydroxyl or amino), C_{1-12} dialkylamino (substituted with hydroxyl or amino), C_{1-12} alkylaryl amino (optionally substituted with hydroxyl or amino), and diarylamino (optionally substituted with hydroxyl or amino); R^2 is hydrogen, C_{1-12} alkyl, carboxy, hydroxy, C_{1-12} alkoxy, or halo; and at least one of the groups R^3 , R^4 and R^5 is an electron withdrawing group selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, cyano, COR^2 , C_{1-12} mono- or polyhaloalkyl, C_{1-12} alkenyl (substituted with an additional electron withdrawing group), halo, nitro, sulfonyl, C_{1-12} alkylsulfonyl (optionally substituted) and arylsulfonyl (optionally substituted); while the other of the groups R^3 , R^4 and R^5 are, independently, C_{1-12} alkyl, hydroxy, C_{1-12} alkoxy, amino, C_{1-12} alkylaryl amino (optionally substituted with hydroxyl or amino), diarylamino (optionally substituted with hydroxyl or amino), hydrogen, cyano, COR^2 , C_{1-12} mono- or polyhaloalkyl, C_{1-12} alkenyl (substituted with an additional electron withdrawing group), halo, nitro, sulfonyl, C_{1-12} alkylsulfonyl (optionally substituted), or arylsulfonyl (optionally substituted); and

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if $m=2-9$; R^1 is an electron donating group selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, amino, C_{1-12} alkoxy (optionally substituted with hydroxyl or amino), C_{1-12} dialkylamino (optionally substituted with hydroxyl or amino), C_{1-12} alkylarylamino (optionally substituted with hydroxyl or amino), and diarylamino (optionally substituted with hydroxyl or amino); R^2 is hydrogen, C_{1-12} alkyl, carboxy, hydroxy, C_{1-12} alkoxy, or halo; and at least one of the groups R^3 , R^4 and R^5 is an electron withdrawing group selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, cyano, COR^2 , C_{1-12} mono- or polyhaloalkyl, C_{1-12} alkenyl (substituted with an additional electron withdrawing group), halo, nitro, sulfonyl, C_{1-12} alkylsulfonyl (optionally substituted), and arylsulfonyl (optionally substituted); while the other of the groups R^3 , R^4 and R^5 are, independently, C_{1-12} alkyl, hydroxy, C_{1-12} alkoxy, amino, C_{1-12} alkylarylamino (optionally substituted with hydroxyl or amino), diarylamino (optionally substituted with hydroxyl or amino), hydrogen, cyano, COR^2 , C_{1-12} mono- or polyhaloalkyl, C_{1-12} alkenyl (substituted with an additional electron withdrawing group), halo, nitro, sulfonyl, C_{1-12} alkylsulfonyl (optionally substituted), or arylsulfonyl (optionally substituted).

2. The compound in accordance with claim 1 wherein R^2 is hydrogen, methyl, or methoxy; R^3 , R^4 and R^5 are, independently, hydrogen, methylsulfonyl, or nitro; and $m = 2-9$.

3. The compound in accordance with claim 2 wherein R^3 , R^4 and R^5 are, independently, hydrogen or nitro; and $m = 2-9$.

4. The compound in accordance with claim 2 wherein R^3 , R^4 and R^5 are, independently, hydrogen or methylsulfonyl; and $m = 0-9$.

5. A composition comprising an effective amount of the compound in accordance with claim 1 in admixture with a optically acceptable polymer.

6. A composition comprising an effective amount of the compound in

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accordance with claim 1 attached to a optically acceptable polymer with a C_{60} spacer.

7. A use of a compound in accordance with claims 1-4 in an optical waveguide or an optical switch.

8. A use of a composition in accordance with claims 5-6 in an optical waveguide or an optical switch.